

TOWN OF WALLACE
MONTHLY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
November 12, 2020
7:00 pm

The Wallace Town Council held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting in the Council Chambers at the Town Hall.

The following Governing Body members were present:

Charles C. Farrior, Jr., Mayor
Council Member/Mayor Pro-Tem Wannetta Carlton
Council Member Frank Brinkley
Council Member Jeff Carter
Council Member Francisco Rivas-Diaz
Council Member Jason Wells

The following members of the Governing Body were absent:

NONE

Also Present were:

Larry Bergman, Town Manager	Twig Rollins, Code Compliance Specialist (via Zoom)
Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk	Jody Brooks, Wallace ABC Board
David Bizzell, Parks & Recreation Director (via Zoom)	Kenny Brooks
Jimmy Crayton, Police Chief	William Brooks
Brent Dean, Public Services Director (via Zoom)	Katherine Bunch, Wallace ABC GM
Shameshia Fennell, Finance (via Zoom)	Marlane Carcopo (via Zoom)
Rod Fritz, Planning Director (via Zoom)	Greg Rogers, IPM Computers
Gage King, Airport Manager	Raymond Spell, IPM Computers
Chris Martin, Tax Administrator (via Zoom)	Jimmy Tate, Wallace ABC Board

Mayor Charley Farrior called the regular meeting to order with a quorum of the governing body members present. Mayor Pro-tem Wannetta Carlton gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Presentations

Ms. Diane McNamara, Wallace ABC Board Chairperson, provided the Council with a brief summary of sales figures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 and presented distribution checks in the amount of \$9,471.00 for the General Fund and \$10,278.49 for the Police Department which includes \$7,629.04 for alcohol education. Store General Manager Katherine Bunch also presented a copy of the ABC Board 2019-20 Audit Report.

Adoption of the Agenda

Mayor Farrior called for discussion of the agenda and said that the Oath of Office for new police officers would be omitted. Council Member Jason Wells made a motion to adopt the agenda as stated. The motion was seconded by Council Member Frank Brinkley and approved by unanimous vote.

Public Comment Period

Mr. Kenny Brooks said he had received a door hangar from Twig Rollins for junk vehicles and other matters. He had some questions for Mr. Rollins and they arranged to meet.

Consent agenda

Minutes from the October 9, 2020 monthly meeting, and the October 29, 2020 continued meeting

Mayor Farrior called for discussion of the minutes. There being no additions or corrections Council Member Wells made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved by unanimous vote.

Tax Report

Tax Administrator Chris Martin presented the Tax Report for the period ending November 12, 2020. Mr. Martin said that year to date collections were up 8.79% and 10 year overall up 3.85%. Payment plans received were in the amount of \$3,203.10 and foreclosures paid in the amount of \$33,202.70. There were no tax releases.

New Business

Introduction of IPM Computers, LLC

Mr. Raymond Spell representing IPM Computers said the company had been doing business in Wallace for 15 years and would like an opportunity to provide IT support services for the Town. Mr. Spell said they could do a free assessment of the Town's system and provide a 3-5 year plan for the future. Other towns they serve are Teachey, Magnolia, Faison and Richlands.

Discussion of Recreation Basketball and COVID-19

Parks & Recreation Director David Bizzell said that Youth Basketball is the biggest program they run with 20 teams, more than 200 participants and large crowds of spectators. He said that due to the pandemic only the Towns of Warsaw and Faison are currently planning to have youth basketball this season. He explained the safety protocols used during volleyball and indicated that similar protocols would be used for basketball. Mr. Bizzell sought Council's opinion whether or not to open registration. The Council discussed this matter and decided to wait to make a decision.

Appoint/Re-Appointment to Cape Fear Council of Governments (CFCOG) Board

Mayor Farrior stated that Council Member Wells was currently representing the Town on this board and is willing to continue. There being no objections he asked for a motion.

Council Member Carlton made a motion to re-appoint Jason Wells to the CFCOG Board which was seconded by Council Member Francisco Rivas-Diaz and approved by unanimous vote.

Financial Reports

Finance Director Shameshia Fennell presented the monthly financial reports and said that sales tax is still strong increasing 4.72% over last fiscal year. The six (6) months grace period for utilities is February 28, 2021.

Hurricane Reports

Ms. Fennell said she renamed this report Disaster Report and added a COVID-19 update.

Council Reports

Council Member Carlton said that Mt. Calvary Leadership Program has support services available for people with COVID-19.

Council Member Carter asked if the issue at Dr. Robinson's had been settled. Town Manager Larry Bergman said it was still being looked at.

Council Member Brinkley asked about the Fleet Manager position. Manager Bergman said that it had been put aside because there is no place for them to work and the individual who was interested has taken another position.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Farrior asked if the Council would be interested in meeting with the ABC Board. The decision was to continue the meeting on November 23 at 6 pm and invite them, if they were interested. He asked for updates on the following:

- Hwy 117 landscaping – the pine straw has been ordered
- Crepe Myrtles on Main St.- 2 have been planted and the remainder ordered
- Building Protection Program – 1 application, some interest

Mayor Farrior said that an individual having an event at the Depot in December has asked for permission to serve alcohol.

Council Member Wells made a motion to allow alcohol to be served at the event at the Depot in December. The motion was seconded by Council Member Brinkley and approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Farrior said someone had asked about deer hunting in the northern area of Boney Mill Pond. The Council was not interested in allowing it.

Department Head Reports

Council Member Wells said that the Fire Department had been completed hose testing. He added that there will be a ceremony for deceased/retired firemen on the first Thursday in December (3) at 6:00 pm.

Police Chief Jimmy Crayton reported that the department is short handed and one of the telecommunicators is out. He has made two (2) conditional offers of employment and has recruiting trips planned to Cape Fear Community College (CFCC) and Johnston County. Calls are down due to the personnel shortage and the calls they are getting are more time consuming.

Airport Manager Gage King reported that the AWOS (Automated Weather Observing System) land clearing contract specs have been sent to the Department of Aviation (DoA) for approval after which the bid phase can begin. A Work Authorization for site preparation and utilities for the AWOS installation is being prepared. Mr. King said the Airport Expansion Work Authorization fund

have been submitted to DOT (Department of Transportation) for approval. Phase I is for land acquisitions and preliminary road design, if funds are approved the project can start in January 2021. He also reported that there are additional base aircraft at the airport.

Public Services Director Brent Dean said DOT installed a storm drain on N. Graham St./Southerland St. and that Little Rockfish Creek has been mowed in preparation for the repair project.

Planning Director Rod Fritz reported that the draft UDO (Unified Development Ordinance) is ready for review by the Planning Board at their November 19 meeting and spoke with Dan Becker at the NC State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding the grist mill restoration grant.

Code Compliance Specialist Twig Rollins said he met with the Mayor's Advisory Board and they asked him to look at creating a tire ordinance .

Library Director Sharon Robison said the patrons are cooperative with the COVID capacity limits and other restrictions.

Town Clerk Jackie Nicholson reported that she had recently participated in webinars related to State Health Plan open enrollment which was successfully completed by all employees, FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) through the North Carolina League of Municipalities and a School of Government Fellows Alumni event.

Town Manager's Report

Manager Bergman reported that the Food Truck Ordinance and Special Events Ordinance were being reviewed by the Town Attorney and could probably be adopted at the December meeting. He spoke briefly about the filming in the downtown area that was originally planned for sometime in March. Manager Bergman said it was not too early to start thinking about the budget process. Council Members Rivas-Diaz, Carlton and Brinkley have agreed to serve on the budget committee.

Mayor Farrior called for a motion to go into closed session to discuss a legal matter. Council Member Brinkley made such a motion that was seconded by Council Member Carlton and approved by unanimous vote.

The Council discussed the building on Main St. adjacent to the former Super 10/Yates building. A letter from an attorney was received regarding this property requesting an extension of the deadline to submit a request to the Town Council for reimbursement for repairs resulting from demolition of the Super 10 building. The Council took no action on this matter.

Council Member Wells made a motion to end the closed session that was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved unanimously.

With there being no other business to discuss at this time, Council Member Brinkley made a motion to continue the meeting on Monday November 23, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers at Town Hall. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rivas-Diaz and approved by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles C. Farrior, Jr., Mayor

Jacqueline Nicholson, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk